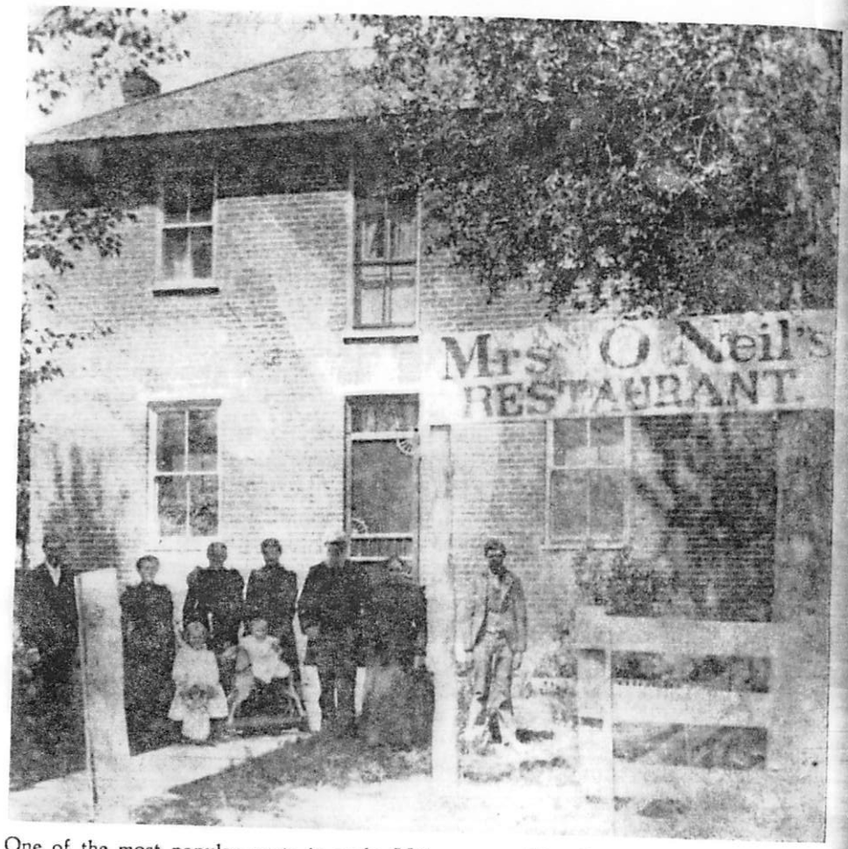


One of the most popular spots in early Midway was Mrs. Agnes O'Neil's Hotel and Restaurant. Shown here in front of the building in this 1897 photograph are, left to right, Samuel O'Neil, Ruth Rockwood O'Neil, Helen Ritchie, baby James Ritchie, Aunt Nannie O'Neil, Agnes Ritchie, Samuel Hair, Rachel Hair and Robert Hair.

Written January 20, 1917, by William Lindsay:

'Tis many a year since first we met
To visit Nannie O'Neil
To celebrate her natal day
And wish weh kind heart "weel"
We met a hearty welcome
In her cheerful, kindly way
And many a happy time we've had
With her the livelong day
Many of those who used to come
Have passed away and gone.

Their bodies sleeping in their graves
'Til the resurrection morn
Aunt Nannie, too, was called away
When nearly eighty-seven
And everyone of us feels sure
That she is now in Heaven
Because she kept the laws of God
As nearly as she could
And trusted everyone she met
As all true Christians should.
Those of her friends who yet remain
Still hold the memory dear
And gladly meet to celebrate
Her Birthday every year.

At the peak of mining there were several Chinese cooks who hired in the area. "One Fan" was a beloved character who cooked at camps in the hills west of Midway. On one occasion young Nate Coleman came running to his father with an especially large piece of pie and exclaimed "Oh, Daddy, see what 'Parasol One' gave me."

Barber shops were operated at various times in Midway by Harry Bircumshaw, William Wheable, Thomas Hair, Mulholland Hair, Walter Van Wagoner and Bert Bonner.

John Mohlman and Mr. Kuhni repaired and made shoes.

Pool halls were operated by Erwin Alder, Walter Van Wagoner, Dow Epperman, Jack Derry and Keith Bronson.

When the railroads came to the area and transportation facilities improved many of the boarding houses closed.

The O'Neil hotel still stands on Midway's Main Street, used today as a private residence.

LIVERY STABLE

Only one livery stable flourished in Midway in the days before automobiles. The stable was established about 1909 by Simon Epperson. In earlier years, Mr. Epperson's father, Sidney H. Epperson, had kept a feed stable where travelers could stop for feed for their teams.

The Epperson stable was located north of the old Berkumshaw Building on a spot where William Gibson later operated a blacksmith shop. Mr. Epperson invested much in his livery stable and boasted fine quality horses and the best in harnesses, buggies and cutters.

Many of Midway's young couples courted in Epperson buggies and enjoyed Sunday rides in outfits from the stables. Workers at the mines also made good use of the services. When mining activity dwindled so did the livery stable business, and its end came when automobiles gained in popularity.

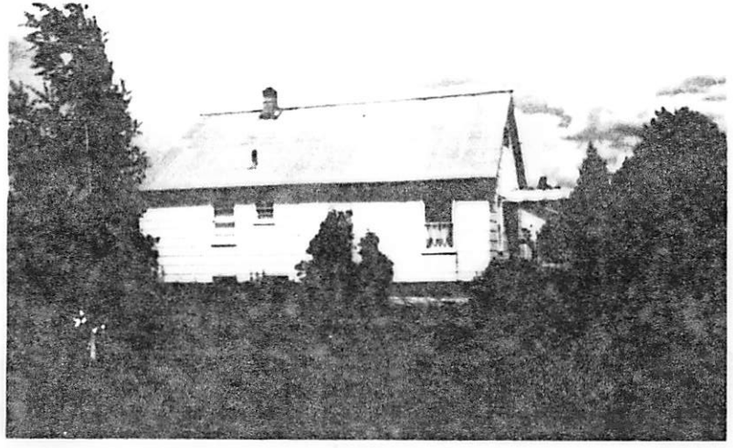
MRS. O'NEIL'S RESTAURANT

In the early 1880's, a widow, Mrs. Agnes "Nannie" O'Neil, opened one of the most popular boarding establishments in Midway. People gathered in throngs for her parties and celebrations. It was located at 303 East Main.

A meal consisting of meat, potatoes and gravy, a vegatable and pudding, could be had for 25c.

Mrs. O'Neil successfully managed the establishment for many years and then around 1906, her health failed and a daughter and her husband, Agnes and Samuel Ritchie, took over the management. They fed and helped many people they knew to be in need. The Ritchies operated it until about 1924, after which it was purchased for a private residence and the second story was removed.

Mrs. O'Neil's Restaurant



The Slaughter's Home
Remodeled O'Neil's Restaurant

SAMUEL AND AGNES O'NEIL RITCHIE

Samuel Cummings Ritchie, son of John Ritchie and Mary Cummings Ritchie. Born October 8, 1864, Montreal, Canada. Married Agnes Elizabeth O'Neil in Salt Lake Temple March 21, 1893. Died October 30, 1924, Park City.

Agnes Elizabeth O'Neil, daughter of John O'Neil and Agnes Cochran Hair O'Neil. Born December 3, 1871 in Midway. Died June 12, 1944, in Park City.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie were respected and beloved by their townspeople. They lived in Midway for many years and ran the O'Neil, later Ritchie Hotel and Boarding

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House. They were known throughout the area for their hospitality and excellent food. They were praised for their gentle manner and generous hearts. They were both loyal to their friends and family. They fed and helped many people they knew to be in need. In later years they moved to Park City and continued in the boarding house business. They were faithful Latter-day Saints. They are buried in Midway.

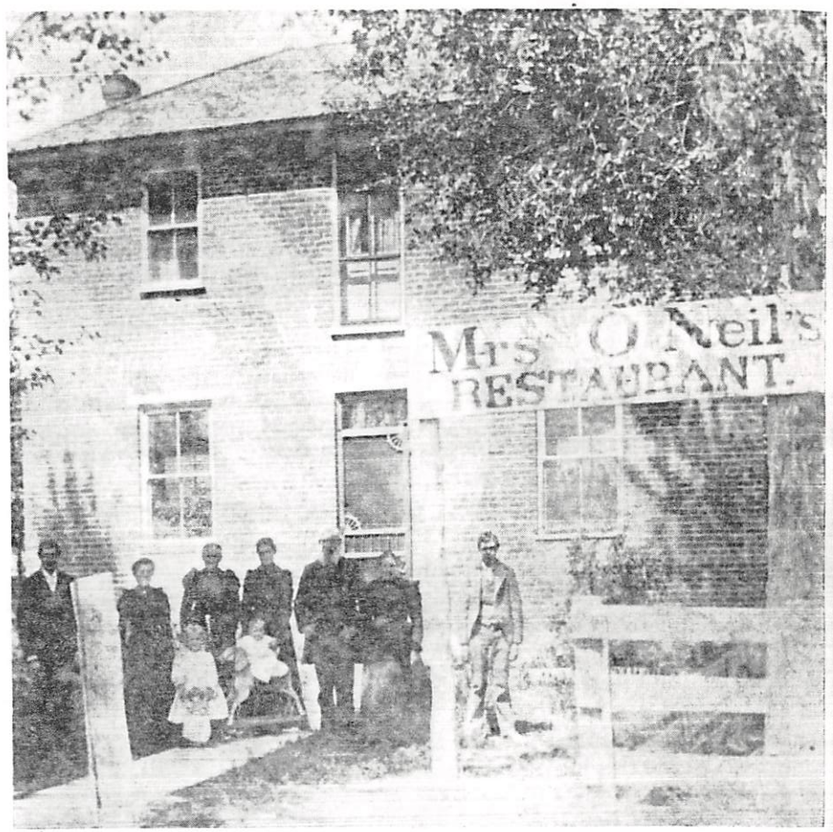
Children of Samuel and Agnes Ritchie:
John, never married;
Agnes Helen, died in youth;
James, married Mignon Neilson;
Harold, died in youth;
William, married Hazel Ostrander;
Mrs. Edwin A. (Ruth O'Neil) Thompson.

BOARDING HOUSES

Midway boarding houses in the early mining days were a boon to the men who worked away from their homes. The money these transient workers left in the community was also a welcome asset to townspeople.

One of the more popular boarding establishments was run by Mrs. Agnes O'Neil, affectionately called "Aunt Nanny O'Neil." She successfully managed the establishment for many years, and then when her health failed, a daughter, Mrs. Agnes Ritchie, took over the management.

Another well regulated and popular boarding house was operated by Mrs. Letty Bronson. Some boarding houses were also kept at the mine sites. There was one at White Pine Canyon and another at the Snake Creek Tunnel. The Old Steamboat Mine also had a boarding house.



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